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ested to promote peace rather than to promote war. If they are interested to promote war, the conference can accomplish nothing. If they are interested to promote peace, they ought to be willing to agree to spend not to exceed 70 per cent of their income for purposes of war. If such a plan were adopted, each nation could fool away its money upon any type of war machine it saw fit, so long as the total expense did not exceed the percentage agreed upon. The self-esteem of no particular military interests would be touched. They who believe in the necessity for effective death-dealing instruments could accept such a solution without violence to their faith. Reducing military expenses by 23 per cent would release enormous sums for constructive social effort in science, education, industry, and the arts. It would be a limitation indeed. It would go a long way toward meeting the demands of the stricken peoples of the world. It would be an attestation of faith and good will. It would remove the problem of international relations from the realm of militarism to the realm of economics and finance. It would immeasurably strengthen the coming generation for the great tasks immediately before.

We do not contend that this solution is simple. It presents its own difficulties. Some will say the percentage is too low, others that it is too high. Some will be interested to know what is meant by the word "income." Our only thought is that among the suggestions brought to our attention, this presents the fewest difficulties.

REDUCING ARMAMENT

(WRITING NOVEMBER 12.)

THE VIEWS we dared to express yesterday relative to the method of reducing armaments are not the views of the American delegates to the Conference on the Limitation of Armament. Mr. Hughes has voiced the collective judgment of the American conferees, and the reduction, it appears, is to be not in percentages of income, but in terms of battleships. The capital ship programs, actual and projected, are to be abandoned. Certain older ships are to be scrapped. Thus we are presented with concrete proposals, looking toward a definite agreement for the limitation of naval armament. The imperative economic demands are to be met, at least in part. The spirit of the American proposal is action. "Plausible suggestions of postponement" and "impracticable counsels of perfection" are ignored. The American pronouncement is, in substance, the way to reduce is to reduce.

We see difficulties in the way of this approach to the problem. It will be said that the day of the battleship has passed. Scrapping the battleships, therefore, will

have little influence upon the problems of war and peace. The new inventions and the new instruments of destruction in the air, on the sea, under the sea, the more deadly explosives and poisonous gases will leave the same old suspicions, hatreds, and prospects of war. International policies are not touched by such a proposal. In the light of these things, even the good faith of America may be questioned in various quarters.

But we do not sympathize with this counsel of pessimism. The American proposal itself is a policy of real international importance. It will end in a relief from the burdens of taxation. It is surprisingly simple. Devoid of international offense, the plan is reasonable and seems to be realizable. Its direct, unequivocal, unconventional approach takes the whole problem from the realm of the merely exclusive interest to that of the common advantage. If it appear to be business idealism, it is ideal business. It is a dare to the destroying, silly, damning philosophy of brute force. It is a fine intelligence applied to international affairs. Free as it is from all atmosphere of the old dickering diplomacy, it forecasts a new order in the world. By it the peace movement is raised again from the cry of impotence to the plane of practical achievement. As by magic, the collective conscience, the common soul of human kind, has become vocal once more, somewhat as was the case November 11, 1918. Coming from a country abundantly able to compete with other nations to the uttermost, the voice is the voice of strength. Men listening to the American Secretary of State felt again with that ancient writer of Proverbs, that "the righteous are bold as a lion." They who listened felt the intensity and force of the situation. This November 12 the world is thrilled, and the day will be remembered as marking an epoch in history.

IS THE END OF WAR POSSIBLE?

IN HIS address November 11 over the grave of the unknown soldier, President Harding heartened men to believe again in the possibility of a warless world. Is the end of war possible? Since the month of July, 1914, there have been comparatively few bold enough to say openly that the abolition of international wars is an achievable ideal. Statesmen, addressing themselves to the problems of international peace, have contented themselves with some such expressions as "lessening the evils of war," "reducing the frequency of wars," "making war less certain." Writers and speakers are wont to qualify their efforts in behalf of international peace with these remarks: "Of course, it is impossible to overcome all wars"; "We have always had war and we shall always have war"; "We can only work for the postponement of war." Statesmen, public men gen-